

## Editorial

### TITLE: Tribute to Professor Antonio Monge

Born on October 05<sup>th</sup>, 1942, Dr. Antonio Monge – Full Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Navarra (UNAV, Pamplona-Spain) and Scientific Director of the Applied Pharmacobiology Research Center (Centro de Investigación en Farmacobiología Aplicada, CIFA) of UNAV - retires from his work on August 31<sup>st</sup> of 2013, leaving behind his irrefutable scientific contributions.

With impeccable credentials, he earned his doctor's degree in Medicinal Chemistry in 1968, in the Higher Council for Scientific Research (*Consejo Superior de Investigación Científica*, CSIC) at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain), beginning a prodigal rise in his career as a professor and researcher. He was a Director in the Department of Organic Chemistry of the University of Navarra (UNAV), Director of the Unit of Research and Development of Medicines, and Director of the Doctoral Program in Design, Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of Drugs at the same Institution. He was President of Spanish Royal Society of Therapeutic Chemistry. He is a Member of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy (Spain), Honorary Member of the Chemistry Society in Peru, Member of the National Academy of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of Argentina, Member of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy of Catalonia, and Fellowship of the World Innovation Foundation. He is Chairman of the IUPAC Chemistry and Human Health Division Commission on Training and Development (VII.M.2), and Member of the Project Teams on Medicinal Chemistry Curriculum, Guidelines for Natural Product Collaborations, and Training and Research in Medicinal Chemistry in Developing Countries. He is an Associate Editor of the European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (Elsevier Journal).

A visionary, an enthusiast of Applied Science and a defender of Industry-University partnerships, in 1985 he conceived the creation of the Applied Pharmacobiology Research Center (*Centro de Investigación en Farmacobiología Aplicada*, CIFA), opened in 1988. Confirming the adage that "fortune favors the brave", CIFA would sign its first millionaire contract with pharmaceutical multinational UPJOHN during its first year, for research in antihypertensive and antiplatelet agents, which in turn brought notoriety and international recognition in the field of drugs and medicines to the University of Navarra.

Dr. Antonio Monge has published, throughout his career, 498 articles, and he has filed 43 patents. He has kept close contact with Latin American researchers, having coordinated 2 CYTED (*Programa Iberoamericano de Ciencia*

*Y Tecnología para el Desarrollo*) Projects. He has advised several Latin American PhD Students, some of which have effectively taken part of this special issue of the *Virtual Chemistry Magazine* (Revista Virtual de Química, RVQ). His closeness with Latin American countries would show his compassion as a mark of his personality, and consolidate his research in the field of neglected diseases.

As an acknowledgement of his importance in science, and as a tribute to his retirement, this special issue of the *Virtual Chemistry Magazine* (<http://www.uff.br/RVQ/index.php/rvq>) has articles authored by collaborators and former students, who have established careers as professors in several Higher Education Institutions. This issue opens with an article written by the honored, dealing with the pharmaceutical innovation from a University point of view, discussing the role of Applied Pharmacobiology Research Center (*Centro de Investigación en Farmacobiología Aplicada*, CIFA) in this scenario.

This special issue is a genuine contribution from those who admire, respect, and acknowledge a victorious trajectory, recording the impeccable history of a lover of Science, after all, like say Miguel de Cervantes, "history is the rival of time, the depository of great actions, the witness of what is past, the example and instruction of the present, the monitor of the future."

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Cover: The issue's cover is the artist Nilo Damasio from Niterói. It is a pencil drawing of XV century Gothic cathedral Santa Maria de Pamplona.

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